

HOUSE RESOLUTION 6

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the members of the 105th Airlift Squadron, Tennessee National Guard, on the occasion of the unit's 85th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, for eighty five years, the members of the 105th Airlift Squadron, Tennessee National Guard, operating from Berry Field in Nashville, have remained ever vigilant and prepared for duty, proving time and again their ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the roots of the 105th Airlift Squadron and the 118th Airlift Wing reach back to World War I when the Aero Squadron of the American Expeditionary Force was formed at Kelly Field, Texas, in 1917; and

WHEREAS, after the war, in 1919, veterans of the 105th Aero Squadron residing in the Nashville area gathered for the purpose of organizing an air element of the Tennessee National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the unit received federal recognition on December 4, 1921, and was assigned to the U.S. Army's 30th "Old Hickory" Division; the squadron's insignia still includes a figure of Andrew Jackson or "Old Hickory" on horseback; and

WHEREAS, during the more than eight decades of its history, the unit has been known by several designations and has flown many types of aircraft; now designated as the 118th Airlift Wing, it flies the C-130H; and

WHEREAS, the unit's mission includes flying operations, aerial port, security police, aero-medical, civil engineering, communications, combat support, medical, and aircraft maintenance units; some 1,300 personnel are available by unit or for individual mobilization in a national defense emergency; and

WHEREAS, under its assigned transport mission, the unit has flown more than 200,000 hours and millions of miles in international and stateside missions in direct support of United States military missions; the Wing has supported the Berlin and Cuban missile crises, national and state civil disturbances, the Vietnam War, Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Provide Relief, Support Hope, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, to name only a few of the better known operations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the "Old Hickory Squadron" have proudly upheld the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society, and for 85 years, their courageous service has stood as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that this General Assembly honor the brave and noble men and women of the 105th Airlift Squadron/118th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee National Guard, as they have made untold and innumerable personal sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and will continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE that we hereby recognize and congratulate the members of the 105th Airlift Squadron, Tennessee National Guard, on the occasion of the unit's 85th Anniversary and express our deepest gratitude for the sacrifices these valiant men and women have so selflessly made to secure the blessings of liberty for the people of this great Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.